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WHITEAWAY'S

SOVIET TROOPS INVADE POLAND

RUSSIANS MARCH INTO STRICKEN COUNTRY TO "PROTECT INTERESTS"

Invasion Starts 24 Hours After U.S.S.R. Tears Up Pact Of Non-Aggression With Warsaw



POLAND, which disappeared from the map of Europe for seven centuries, re-appeared as a result of the Great War. Her territories were carved from Russia and Germany. German territory was west of the line shown in this map; Russian territory east of the map.

Poles Refuse To Surrender City DESTRUCTION OF WARSAW THREAT

LONDON, Sept. 16 (Reuter).—The Nazi radio in Berlin announces that the Germans have presented a 12-hour ultimatum calling on Warsaw to surrender. Leaflets conveying the ultimatum were dropped over Warsaw at 3.10 yesterday afternoon.

Special to "Telegraph"
BERLIN, Sept. 16 (UP).—The D.N.B. (Official German News Agency) reports that the Polish commander of the Warsaw garrison has refused the German demand for the surrender of the city.

Following the refusal, the report claims, German planes scattered thousands of handbills over the Polish capital demanding, firstly, the surrender of the city within twelve hours and, secondly, the surrender of the Polish troops within the city. The handbills stated that, in the case of the demands being met, the surrender should be communicated to the nearest German command.

All its Consequences

After twelve hours, the handbills stated, in the event of the demands being refused, the entire area would be treated as a battle area, with all its consequences.

The handbills were dropped at 3.10 a.m., from which time the twelve-hour deadline was presumably calculated.

The German Command also sent a German spokesman through the lines with a written demand for the surrender of Warsaw. The spokesman departed from the German lines at 8 a.m. and arrived at the Polish lines at 8.30 a.m.

Ultimatum Rejected

The German request was communicated to the Polish Commander in Warsaw, who gave his reply an hour and a half later, saying that he would not receive the spokesman. The D.N.B. states that German officials said they had made this last effort to transmit a written demand to Warsaw when all other means had failed.

Complete Destruction Is Ordered
SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
PARIS, Sept. 16 (UP).—Munich Radio has announced that Warsaw will be considered a combat zone at 3 a.m. and will be completely destroyed by airplanes and artillery bombardments.

Striking Success Against Subs

PARIS, Sept. 16 (UP).—"L'Intransigeant" reports that it is unofficially learned that the Allies have sunk two Nazi U-Boats and have captured eight others.

If this report is correct it indicates that the war on the U-Boats is meeting with striking success. The total Nazi U-Boat fleet does not number more than 80 vessels.

POISON GAS ACCUSATION

BERLIN, Sept. 16 (UP).—The German High Command accuses the Poles of using mustard gas, and of violating the international convention prohibiting the use of gas.

It declares that two were killed and 12 wounded when a gas mine exploded while engineers were removing the barrier on the Jaslova Bridge near Jasló on September 8. Experts in Berlin immediately investigated and determined that mustard gas was actually used, the Nazi report alleges.

Special To The "Telegraph"
POLAND HAS BEEN INVADED BY SOVIET FORCES. AN URGENT "UNITED PRESS" MESSAGE FROM BERLIN CONFIRMS THAT SOVIET TROOPS MARCHED ACROSS THE BORDER AT 4 A.M. SOVIET TIME (10 A.M. HONGKONG TIME).

GERMAN APPROVAL

The invasion is stated to have occurred with the knowledge and full approval of the German Government.

The D.N.B. (German Official News Agency), announcing the invasion, states that the Soviet Government has informed Germany that she intends to maintain neutrality in the European conflict, despite the invasion of Polish territory.

The Russian Note adds that all Russian treaties with Poland, including the Russo-Polish Non-Aggression Pact, are cancelled, since the "Polish State is no longer regarded as being in existence."

ULTIMATUM ON SATURDAY

The events leading up to this latest drama in the European conflict started on Saturday, when the Soviet Government handed to the Polish Ambassador in Moscow, M. Groybowski, a Note informing him that Soviet forces would cross the frontier into Poland at 4 a.m. on Sunday.

ENTIRE BORDER INVADED

The Soviet Note informed Poland that Russian troops would march in across the entire Russo-Polish frontier, from Polozk in the north to Kamenzpolodsk in the south.

The decision to invade Poland was taken, the Note further added, in "order to protect the interests of the U.S.S.R., and in order to protect the Russian Ukrainian minorities."

Intervention May Draw Soviets Into The War

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
PARIS, Sept. 16 (UP).—A warning that the Soviets would be plunged into a general war in Eastern Europe if she joined the Reich attack on Poland, was sounded in Paris to-day as France awaited a clarification of the Moscow position.

The French anxiously awaited concrete indications as to which way Moscow will turn.

The press is filled with speculation on the "equivocal" Soviet attitude.

Paris Uneasiness

By mid-day, the uneasiness had increased as the result of reports that Moscow had made a deal with Japan to forestall an attack on her rear while she concentrated troops at two points on the west front, and has used newspapers to prepare the way for movements of troops.

Against any Soviet invasion, the French brought forward three arguments: firstly, it was against Russian interest to attack—despite the London rumours of a deal with Hitler where-by the Soviets will have a free hand on the Baltic coast; secondly, Russia would be plunged into a general eastern European war; and, thirdly,

conciliation convention in November of that same year. In 1933 Russia signed the London protocol, defining an aggressor. In 1934 the Russo-Polish Non-Aggression Pact was prolonged for ten years and was again re-affirmed last November—after Munich—by a communique published simultaneously at Moscow and Warsaw.

Mentioning this series of accords the French press expressed the opinion: "It is difficult to believe that this dossier, by Soviet initiative, is to be reduced to a collection of scraps of paper."

Hands Now Free

LONDON, Sept. 16 (Reuter).—When the Soviet concluded her non-aggression pact with Germany, after turning down the Turko-British offer of collaboration in a mutual assistance pact, the general belief was that she was seeking to have her hands free in the Far East.

But, as events have moved so rapidly since then, it is not altogether surprising to find the Soviets entering an armistice with Japan, which it is suggested, may be followed by a non-aggression pact, leaving Moscow with her hands free in Europe.

The suggestion implied in the recent "Pravda" article was that the Soviet was staking a claim in Poland, where they allege there are nearly 10,000,000 Ukrainians and White Russians.

In this connection there are two possibilities: Firstly, there may have been an agreement with Germany in respect to the partition of Poland. Secondly, Moscow is alarmed at the speed of the German victory and may be preparing to back up her claims to certain territories if the German advance is halted too far.

All-Purpose Measure

The mobilisation of four million soldiers is in keeping with either alternative, and can be regarded as an all-purpose measure to cover every eventuality, while it is significant that Germany seems to be as much in the dark and uneasy about the Soviet attitude as the rest of the world.

Fierce Battle On The Saar Front NAZIS RUSH UP REINFORCEMENTS

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
PARIS, Sept. 16 (UP).—An official French war communique announces that the Germans are heavily reinforcing the western front.

It announces intensive artillery activity and claims that the Germans are abandoning considerable terrain, including villages, which they are destroying before retreating.

"There is great activity both with artillery and other elements of contact on the entire front."

"The enemy is being ceaselessly reinforced before us."

While omitting specific details of the French action, it is taken to indicate the intensity of the attacks as well as the fact that the German counter-drive has been redoubled in the past 24 hours.

Tanks Effective

Unofficial reports state that the French are making most effective use of their tanks to cover the infantry and are hammering the German lines, while their artillery is constantly pounding the fortified German points.

The continued German withdrawal confirms the failure of the Reichwehr artillery to halt the advance.

General Gamelin reports that he is most satisfied with the resistance the French advance units is giving to the German drive, as well as the action of his own big guns, which is succeeding in systematically silencing the German artillery at all major points of attack and forcing the defence forces to retire.

Mass Formations

LONDON, Sept. 16 (Reuter).—Late last night it was reported that three mass formations of German tanks and infantry tried to smash the French lines near Saarbrücken.

The battle took place near the Saar village of Nieder, half-way between Luxembourg and Saarbrücken.

The attacking Germans were driven back by the French despite heavy shelling. German aeroplanes dived low and machine-gunned the French positions, but the French withheld the assault in newly-dug trenches and are still maintaining their positions on the hills.

This is the first time that the Germans have come over in mass-formations.

French artillery shattered the German tank formations, and the French broke and drove back the infantry attack with bayonet charges.

Villages Destroyed

A French communique issued last night states that the Germans have destroyed certain villages as they retreated. There is great artillery activity on both sides over the whole front and the Germans are sending up reinforcements.

Unceasing Reinforcement

A communique states there was great activity by the artillery on both sides yesterday and by units in contact upon the whole front. The enemy is unceasingly sending up reinforcements opposite our lines. At several points he has abandoned and destroyed certain of his villages as he retired.—Reuter.

Major Objective

One of the immediate major French objectives appears to be to continue possession of both the Saar River banks, centered on Saarbrücken, where the Germans are stubbornly resisting, although already forced back to a point where the heavy industry and mines have been made useless.

War's Biggest Battle

PARIS, Sept. 16. Military dispatches say that war's biggest battle is being waged on the western front in the loop formed by the Nied River, the center sector being between the Moselle River and Saarbrücken.

The attacking Germans were hurled back, despite the terrific shelling of their supporting batteries, plus the

furious assaults of a score of diving, strafing German planes.

German reinforcements attempted to dislodge the French from the newly conquered vital hills overlooking the Siegfried line fortresses at Saarbrücken and Duppelweiler.

Entrenched French machine gunners met the German attack and the French artillery blasted the German tank formations.

The Germans used massed formations for the first time on the western front but reports said it only resulted in increased losses.

The report said that after each wave of attackers was broken, the French charged with bayonets and forced the Germans back.

Siegfried Lines In Action
LONDON, Sept. 16 (Reuter).—A semi-official review says that the French and the defenders of the Siegfried positions are at grips and are disputing the forward works of the German fortified line on the south bank of the Saar.

A large-scale German counter-attack was made on the rugged plateau which, between the River Nied and the Warndt Forest, dominates Sarrelouis.

Thus, bit by bit, successive communique announce more or less important engagements around the central Saar region.

Fighting in the lower valley of the Nied is taking place on the right bank of the stream, which passes Bonzenville and meanders with sharp curves across a plateau strewn with little woods.

Major Interest

The eastern rim of this plateau dominates the valley of the Saar, forming a balcony on which artillery can batter Sarrelouis and the whole Valley of the Saar and the heights situated on the other side of the river, on which the real Siegfried Line is built.

The enemy therefore has a major interest in stemming French progress here before the French reach the rim of the plateau.

LATEST

German Goods Seized On Ship

Three thousand packages of alleged contraband were seized in Hongkong during the week-end aboard the Danish East Asiatic Company's steamer Elma, shortly after the vessel arrived in port from Hamburg. The packages consist mainly of iron and steel goods, consigned to Shanghai. The Malaysia sailed this afternoon for Shanghai.

POLES RESIST

LONDON, Sept. 16 (Reuter).—According to a cable received by the Polish Embassy from Riga, Polish troops are resisting the Russian invasion.

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